

Membership Balance Plan
Defense Science Board

Agency: Department of Defense (DoD)

1. Authority: The Secretary of Defense, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.50(d), established the Defense Science Board ("the Board").
2. Mission/Function: The Board, in accordance with the provisions of FACA, shall provide the Secretary of Defense; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)); the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and as requested, other Office of the Secretary of Defense Principal Staff Assistants; the Secretaries of the Military Departments; and the Commanders of the Combatant Commands independent advice and recommendations on science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD.
3. Points of View: The Board shall be comprised of no more than 50 members, who are eminent authorities in the fields of science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD.

The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Board, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals and bases its selections on this review and the subject matters being handled by the Board. The Department has found that viewing complex issues through a multi-discipline advisory committee provides DoD senior leadership and, more importantly, the American public with a broader understanding on which to base subsequent policy decisions.

Each Board member, based upon his or her individual and professional experiences, provides his or her best judgment on the matters before the Board, and he or she does so without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest. The Board members appointed by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, shall be appointed to serve as experts and consultants, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. § 3109, and to serve as special government employees (SGE) members. The Board members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal employees will serve as regular government employee (RGE) members. Board members shall be renewed on an annual basis by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or designee.

The Board's membership balance is not static and the Secretary of Defense may change the membership based upon work assigned to the Board by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the USD(AT&L), as the Board's Sponsor. In addition, the Department, unless otherwise ordered by an Act of Congress or Presidential directive, does not use representative members on DoD established or supported advisory committees.

4. Other Balance Factors: Candidates for appointment come from government service, military service, academia, or private industry, and individual appointments are based on the subject matter being reviewed by the Board.

Membership Balance Plan
Defense Science Board

5. Candidate Identification Process: The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Board, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals with extensive professional experience in the areas of science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD. Potential candidates are identified by the Board's professional staff, and senior DoD career and political officials.

Once potential candidates are identified, the Designated Federal Officer and the Board's staff review the credentials of each individual, narrow the list of potential candidates and forward the list to the USD(AT&L). During the USD(AT&L) review, he or she strives to achieve a balance between the educational and professional credentials of the individuals and the subjects that he or she anticipates will be reviewed by the Board to achieve expertise in points of view regarding anticipated topics.

Prior to nominating the potential candidates, the list of candidates will undergo a review by the Office of General Counsel of the Department of Defense and the Office of the Advisory Committee Management Officer to ensure compliance with Federal and DoD governance requirements; such as compliance with the Board's charter and membership balance plan. Following this review, the USD(AT&L) formally nominates the potential candidates to the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense for approval; pursuant to DoD policy, only the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense can invite or approve the appointment of individuals to advisory committees established or supported by the DoD.

Following the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense approval, the approved candidates are required to complete the necessary appointment paperwork, to include meeting ethics requirements stipulated by the Office of Government Ethics for advisory committee members.

The Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense may approve the appointment of Board members for one-to-four year terms of service; however, unless authorized by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, no member may serve more than two consecutive terms of service. This same term of service limitation also applies to any DoD authorized subcommittees.

The Board and subcommittee member vacancies will be filled in the same manner as described in the previous five paragraphs above.

6. Subcommittee Balance: The DoD, when necessary and consistent with the Board's mission and DoD policies and procedures, may establish subcommittees, task forces, or working groups to support the Board.

The Board maintains two permanent subcommittees: The Permanent Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Surety; and the Survivability of DoD Systems and Assets to Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) and Other Nuclear Weapons Effects Task Force. Subcommittee members shall be eminent authorities in the fields of science, technology, manufacturing, acquisition process, and other matters of special interest to the DoD.

Membership Balance Plan
Defense Science Board

- a. The Permanent Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Surety (“the Task Force”) is comprised of no more than 15 members. The Task Force is charged to assess all aspects of nuclear weapons surety, to include military, Federal, and contractors, and to review and recommend methods and strategies to maintain a safe, secure, and viable nuclear deterrent.
- b. The Task Force on Survivability of DoD Systems and Assets to Electromagnetic Pulse and Other Nuclear Weapons Effects is comprised of no more than 15 members and is charged to assess implementation of the DoD Instruction covering nuclear survivability including EMP, and the effectiveness of the management oversight group established by the DoD Instruction.

The Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense shall approve the appointment of subcommittee members even if they are appointed to the Board, and these individuals may come from the Board or be new nominees, as recommended by the USD(AT&L) and based upon the matters under consideration.

Subcommittee members, if not full-time or part-time government employees, shall be appointed to serve as experts and consultants, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. § 3109, and shall serve as SGE members, whose appointments must be renewed by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense on an annual basis. Those individuals who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees shall be approved to serve as RGE members. With the exception of travel and per diem for official Board-related travel, subcommittee members shall serve without compensation.

7. Other: As nominees are considered for appointment to the Board, the DoD adheres to the Office of Management and Budget’s Final Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Boards and Commissions (76 FR 61756; October 5, 2011) and the rules and regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics.
8. Date Prepared: May 6, 2014